THE SWEET SIXTEEN~ EARLIEST POST OFFICES OF PENNSYLVANIA

JOINING THE UNION ON DECEMBER 12, 1787 PENNSYLVANIA ALREADY HAD 6 OPERATING POST OFFICES WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH. NEARING THE END OF 1792 SIXTEEN (16) WERE OPERATIONAL. THIS EXHIBIT PROVIDES A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF THOSE EARLY POST OFFICES THOUGH THE COVERS POSTED FROM THOSE ***"sweet sixteen."*** EACH PAGE IN THIS DISPLAY HONORS ONE OF THE ***sixteen*** IN ORDER OF INITIALIZING POSTAL OPERATIONS BY YEAR. THE COVER(S) SHOWN ARE THE EARLIEST AND MOST SIGNIFICANT ACQUIRED TO DATE BUT RECOGNIZES THE PROCESS IS ONGOING AND THE THIRTY 30-YEAR HUNT CONTINUES TO BE EXHILARATING.

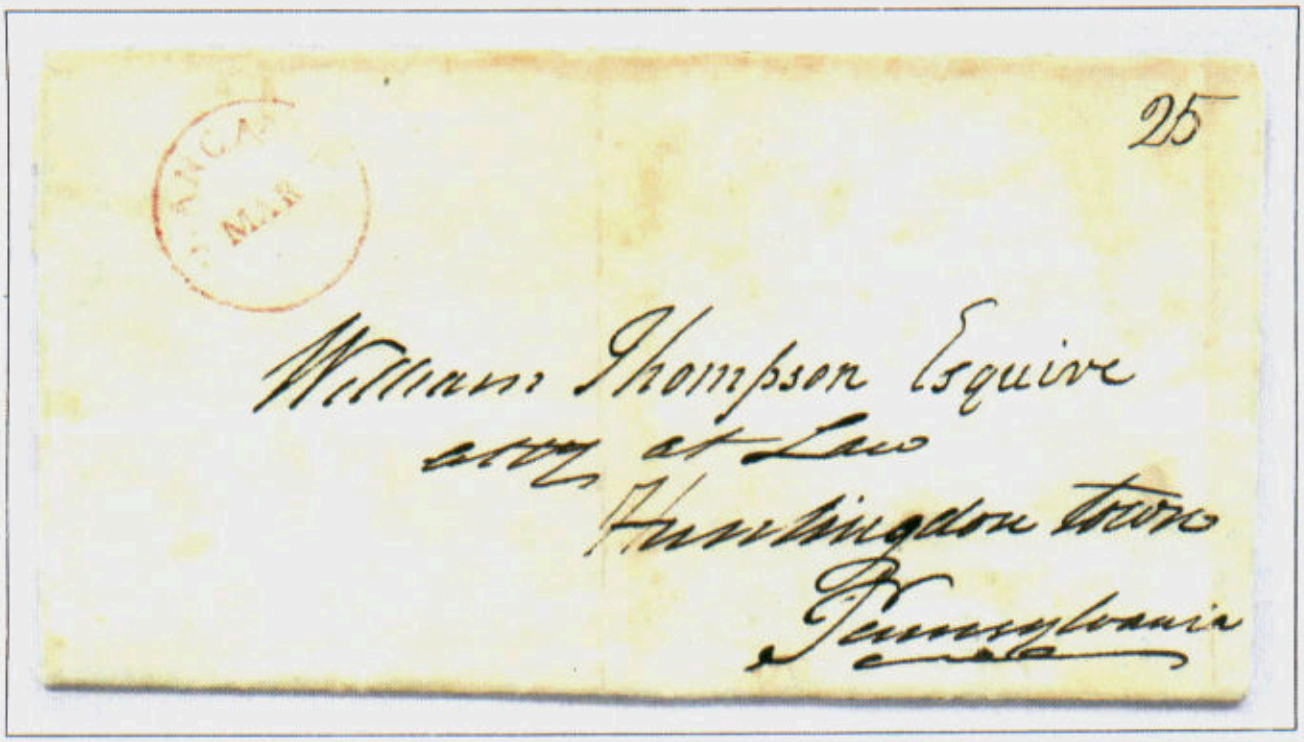
AN ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE TO PRESENT COVERS THAT SHOW INTERESTING AND VARIED POSTAL MARKINGS, RATES, ROUTES, & DESTINATIONS FOR THE ERA COVERED. PENNSYLVANIA WITH BEN FRANKLIN'S CREATION OF THE MODERN POST OFFICE IN PHILADELPHIA PROVIDES ONE WITH A NATURAL STARTING POINT FOR COLLECTING AND STUDYING PA POSTAL HISTORY.

LANCASTER

CIRCLE TOWN RED POSTMARK (28MM) WITH 25-CENT RATE

THE LANCASTER P. O. OPENED IN 1775 AS DID PHILADELPHIA, BRISTOL, CHESTER, & YORK

FOLDED LETTER DATED 1805...THE DISTANCE TO HUNTINGDON (TOWN) WAS 129 MILES SO THE 25-CENT RATE IN MANUSCRIPT IS CORRECT FOR THE TWO (2) PAGE LETTER AND THE 90 TO 150 MILES PER THE ACT OF 1799.



THE FIRST POSTMASTER WAS MR. SAMUEL TURBETT. LANCASTER P.O. IN LANCASTER COUNTY, PA. IS STILL OPERATING 117 MILES FROM WASHINGTON, D. C.